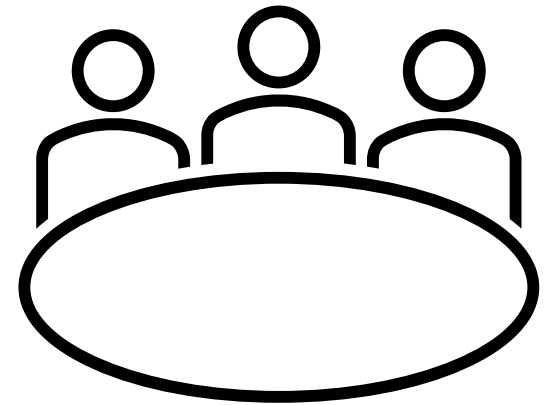
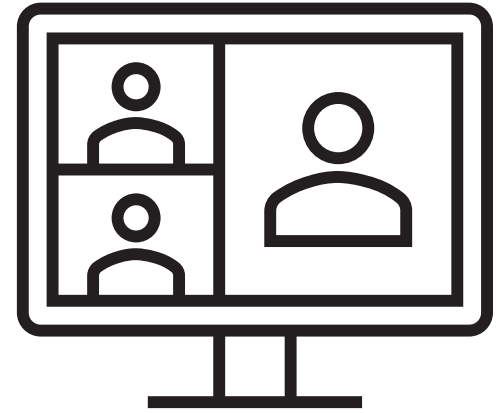


# Open Public Meetings & COVID-19

Candice Bock, Government Relations  
Director, Association of Washington  
Cities



# Open Public Meetings Act (OPMA) Emergency meetings legislation

Emergency provisions of OPMA haven't been updated since 1983 and don't contemplate virtual attendance options

## OPMA Emergency Proclamation 20-25

Requires public meetings to be held virtually

Modified to allow for minimum in-person attendance (up to 10 persons in Phase 3 areas)

### Draft bill addresses:

Situations with a declared emergency and the agency reasonably believes that it can't meet safely in person (i.e. pandemic or a snowstorm)

Allows for electronic or telephonic attendance

The virtual format must be provided at no additional cost to the public

Does allow an agency to require safety measures like mask, physical distancing and logging into a system – doesn't require identification

Also addresses notice requirements